Appl. No. 10/031,897 Amdt. Dated 1/14/04 Reply to Office Action 9/15/03



RECEIVED FEB 0 2 2004 TC 1700

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 7 - 8, with the following amended paragraph:

The invention provides a film-forming composition comprising pullulan and a setting system. For example, a composition of this invention can contain from 85% to 95% by weight of pullulan and from 5% to 15% by weight of the setting system.

Replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 4-7, with the following amended paragraph:

The cation containing salt in the composition serves to enhance the setting ability of the gelling agents. Preferably, the salt comprises cations such as K⁺, Li⁺, Na⁺, NH₄⁺, Ca²⁺, or Mg²⁺, etc. The amount of cations is less than 5% by weight, preferably less than 3%, more preferably 0.01% to 3% by weight, even more preferably 0.5% to 2% by weight, especially 0.01 to 1% by weight in the aqueous pullulan solution. The preferred salt concentration in the solution is less than 2%.

Replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 3 – 6, with the following amended paragraph:

In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the amount of the sequestering agent is <u>less than 5% by weight</u>, preferably less than 3%, <u>more preferably 0.01% to 3% by weight</u>, even more preferably 0.5% to 2% by weight, especially 0.01 to 1% by weight of the aqueous dipping solution.